

Western Kentucky University
TopSCHOLAR®

Honors College Capstone Experience/Thesis
Projects

Honors College at WKU

Spring 5-12-2011

Assessment Of Prenatal Care And Perinatal Outcomes In Kasigau, Kenya

Allison Smith

Western Kentucky University, allison.smith749@topper.wku.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/stu_hon_theses



Part of the [Biology Commons](#), [Chemistry Commons](#), and the [Medicine and Health Sciences Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Smith, Allison, "Assessment Of Prenatal Care And Perinatal Outcomes In Kasigau, Kenya" (2011). *Honors College Capstone Experience/Thesis Projects*. Paper 333.
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/stu_hon_theses/333

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in Honors College Capstone Experience/Thesis Projects by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact connie.foster@wku.edu.

ASSESSMENT OF PRENATAL CARE AND PERINATAL OUTCOMES IN KASIGAU, KENYA

A Capstone Experience/Thesis Project

Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for

the Degree of Bachelor of Science with

Honors College Graduate Distinction at Western Kentucky University

By

Allison Leigh Smith

Western Kentucky University

2011

CE/T Committee

Professor Nancy Rice, Advisor

Professor Gary English

Professor Kristi Branham

Approved by

Advisor
Department of Biology

Copyright by
Allison Leigh Smith
2011

ABSTRACT

The World Health Organization (WHO) implemented the Millennium Declaration in 2000 to establish global health goals to be achieved by 2015. Two of these Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) are directly related to maternal, neonatal and child health. Healthcare during the prenatal period can help achieve the WHO MDG's for maternal health and child mortality. Evidence has shown that women in Kenya have limited access to prenatal care. This study focused on the prenatal care and postnatal outcome trends of the women in Kasigau, Kenya. Participants were surveyed in three villages (Rukanga, Makwasinyi, and Bhuguta) to determine if prenatal care was being received and the prevalence of a live birth and a healthy weight baby. This data illustrated that the majority of women in Kasigau (90%) receive prenatal care as well as majority of births occurring in the region are both live (98%) and of healthy weight (63%). This data shows Kasigau to be similar to Kenya as a whole in these areas. Women in Bhuguta showed a high prevalence of no education (57%) as well as home delivery (36%). In contrast, the village of Makwasinyi had an 86% primary school completion rate, while the majority of the women gave birth at the health clinic (75%).

Keywords: Prenatal Care, Perinatal Outcomes, Maternal Health, Child Mortality, Kenya, Africa

Dedicated to my family, friends and the people of Kasigau, Kenya

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project would not have been possible without the support and guidance of my CE/T advisor, Dr. Nancy Rice. I would like to thank her for presenting me with the opportunity to study in Kasigau, Kenya. I, as well people of Kasigau, appreciate her continued efforts to improve the healthcare in the region. I appreciate Dr. Rice allowing me to work under her while pushing me as a student. I would also like to extend my gratitude to Dr. Gary English and Dr. Kristi Branham for serving on my committee.

I would like to thank the WKU Biology Department for allowing me to participate in the Partners in Caring: Medicine in Kenya Service Learning Course and for their continued support throughout my undergraduate work at WKU. I greatly appreciate the financial assistance provided by the WKU Honors College through a Travel Abroad Grant. Thanks to the WKU Office of Study Abroad and Global Learning for awarding me with a Study Abroad Scholarship.

As always, I would like to thank my family for their constant support and love. Their encouragement to follow my dreams has made me the person I am today. Lastly, I greatly appreciate the people of Kasigau, Kenya for opening up their hearts and homes to me during my time there. I am forever changed by my experience in Kenya and I will always cherish the friendships I was so lucky to make. Thank you.

VITA

October, 10 1988.....Born – Louisville, Kentucky

2007.....Oldham County High School,
Buckner, Kentucky

2010.....Study Abroad, Kasigau, Kenya

2010.....Research with Dr. Rice,
Western Kentucky University

FIELDS OF STUDY

Major Fields: Biology, Chemistry

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Abstract.....	ii
Dedication.....	iii
Acknowledgements.....	iv
Vita.....	v
List of Figures.....	vii
Chapters:	
Introduction.....	1
Research Methods.....	6
Results.....	8
Discussion.....	28
References.....	37

LIST OF FIGURES

<u>Appendix</u>	<u>Page</u>
1 HSRB Approval.....	34
2 Informed Consent Document.....	35
3 Survey Questions.....	36
<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
1 Distance from Dispensary.....	13
2 Average Monthly Income.....	13
3 Primary Source of Income.....	13
4 Marital Status.....	13
5 Mother's Highest Level of Education.....	14
6 Insecticide-treated Mosquito Net Use.....	14
7 Prenatal Care Received during Pregnancy.....	20
8 Number of Prenatal Care visits per Pregnancy.....	20
9 Number of Pregnancies per Woman.....	20
10 Smoking or Alcohol Use during Pregnancy.....	20
11 Delivery Assistant Present.....	21
12 Delivery Location.....	21
13 Outcome of Birth.....	26
14 Birthweight of Children.....	26
15 Early Delivery.....	26

16	Malaria or Anemia at time of Birth.....	26
17	Breastfeeding at Time of Pregnancy.....	27